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The Playground

The World at Play



MEDAL PRESENTED BY DR. JOHN H. FINLEY TO SCHOOL BOY TRAMPERS

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The Playground

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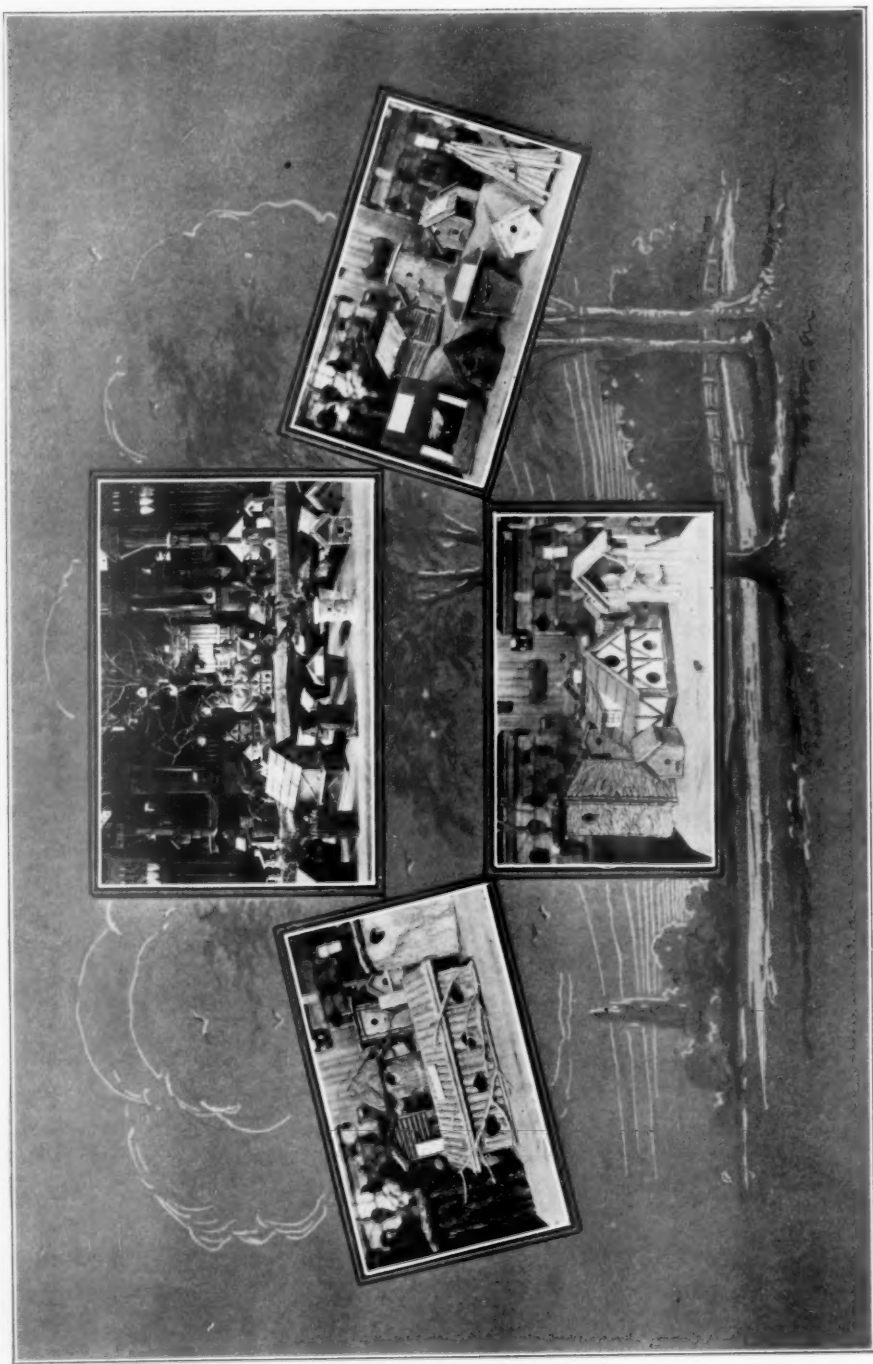
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SAFE AND SANE FOURTH



BIRD HOUSES MADE BY OMAHA CHILDREN

THE WORLD AT PLAY

International Recreation Congress, October 2-6, 1916.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Subjects suggested for popular addresses at the big evening meetings

A Great Discovery of the Twentieth Century—The Neighborhood Play Center

The Importance of the Neighborhood Play Center in Any Program of National Preparedness for Defense

Building a Civilization through Play

Can an Indoor Nation Long Endure?

Physical Vitality a National Asset

Leisure Hours America's Greatest Wealth

Changing Leisure Time from a Liability to an Asset

Can America Maintain High Working Efficiency without Organizing Leisure and Promoting Recreation?

Better Farming, Better Marketing, Better People through Better Use of Rural Leisure

The Making of Men in America

Resolutions of New York City Neighborhood Workers.—

"Resolved, That the Association of Neighborhood Workers, although not opposed to the idea of self-support as the desirable goal of all community

centers, believes that in their present stage of development few communities can offer sufficient resources and supervision of such a quality as to keep up the standard desirable for community center work. It is therefore highly inadvisable that they undertake for the present the responsibility of supervision, and such items as janitorial service, use, heating and lighting of building, these functions belonging, in the opinion of the Association, properly to the Board of Education." (Tuesday, April 4th)

"Recent investigations of the Recreation Commission of New York show that there are 680,000 children under fifteen years of age in New York City who have to seek recreation outside of their homes. Public and private recreational agencies accommodate about one-third of these children in the summer and one-tenth in the winter. It is therefore plain that there is need of very much more recreation work, both public and private, and the Committee on Recreation recommends that the settlements make use of all available space and all possible facilities for increasing their recreation work." (Tuesday, May 2nd)

"We believe that the work-

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study-play schools provide a very desirable enrichment of the elementary school curriculum. They offer a training for vocational and home life, for social co-operation and the development of richer individual interests much superior to the present elementary school program. Hence we approve the extension of the work-study-play program through the schools of the city as rapidly as proper equipment and an able teaching force can be secured."

"In the spirit and methods of instruction and supervision we would emphasize the necessity for humanizing the schools. The starting point for all education should be human need, and the end human satisfaction. A sympathetic attitude is the first requisite for the successful teacher. In the selection and supervision of teachers there is an imperative need for a recognition of this fact" (Tuesday, May 2nd)

The Importance of the Team.—Writing of the war in the *Atlantic Monthly*, a British captain says:

"All the old regiments are alive today, and some—the most splendid—have grown to brigades and overrun into divisions. It is no uncommon thing to find a twentieth battalion of a famous name, and the youngest recruit carries forward the old pride and wears his badges as a

personal distinction.....It is the regiment and not the man who counts, the regiment with two hundred years behind it."

San Diego.—San Diego has arranged a summer camp which shall be conducted by the Playground Department. Seven dollars and fifty cents pays for two weeks at the camp and also for transportation.

Bureau of Commercial Economics.—A bureau of the Department of Public Instruction, Washington, D. C., makes available for playgrounds, neighborhood centers, and other centers for the general public, where the admission is free, slides and films giving "geographical, commercial, industrial and vocational information, showing how things in common use are made or produced and under what conditions." For large audiences the Bureau will provide, without expense, special lecturers on current subjects; travel, industry and banking. A catalogue giving lists of offerings and conditions under which they may be obtained may be secured from the Bureau. No fee whatsoever is charged or accepted for the use of the films of the Bureau.

A Startling Letter.—"I am not particularly interested in your Playground Association at present. I attended a playground meet and a more saucy

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and rude lot of boys I never saw. On my return they piled on to the street cars and filled every seat in the scramble. I am an old veteran of the Civil War and seventy-three years old. I had to hang on to a strap all the way down town and supported an old lady, a stranger to me, all the way. Not a boy had the manners to offer either of us a seat. None of the boys was over sixteen years old."

The man who sent us the above letter has been helping actively for four years in trying to secure more and better playgrounds, but because of this one experience has become discouraged. What can our play leaders throughout the country do to make it impossible for our playground boys and girls to show such disrespect for older men and women?

A few days ago I entered a street car where about thirty boys had the seats and were going out for a day's play together. No sooner did any women or older men enter the car than several of the boys jumped up. No woman was allowed to stand even for a few minutes. (Editor)

Play and Art.—Detroit found it necessary to transfer the Art Museum, which had been owned by a private corporation, to a public board in

order to secure public appropriation, in accordance with a decision of the Supreme Court. After some discussion and much argument, the museum was placed under the Recreation Commission and the appropriation of \$40,000 for its maintenance annually made a part of the recreation budget.

Historical Pageant in Sacramento.—Ten thousand school children of Sacramento participated in the largest children's celebration ever held in northern California marking the completion of the building of the concrete causeway across the Yolo Basin, uniting the east and west sides of the Sacramento Valley.

The parade included a stage coach of the pony express days, driven by one of the veteran drivers, still active in spite of his years. Various activities, from the hiking and tennis clubs to the manual training and domestic science classes, were represented, including an egg-beater band of girls making music with egg-beaters in yellow crockery mixing bowls.

The celebration included outdoor drama at South Side Park, a chorus of several thousand school children's voices and folk dancing at the South Side recreation center.

From Rochester's Report.—Last summer Rochester em-

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ployed eight specialists to lead the children's play in sewing, basketry, folk dancing, nature study and boy scout work. Through bulletin boards the children were informed of these various activities.

About fifty boys and a few girls entered the playground kite-flying contest. A stiff breeze kept the small boys at one end of the lines hard pressed to keep from following the kites into the air and in several cases they were obliged to appeal for assistance.

At the first big gathering of the playground scouts there were 240 lively youngsters present. The lads were led by a bugle and drum corps made up of the musicians of the different groups to Durand-Eastman Park where they cooked their lunches over the fires and played games.

At the annual city championship swimming meet, the most important event was the 100 yards swimming race. The diving on this occasion was very interesting, especially that of the young women.

In September a pet show was held at the Front Street playground at which every conceivable kind of pet was displayed from trained fleas to Shetland ponies.

Can Swimming Pools Be Kept Sanitary?—A physician

who has been a swimmer since he was six years old has recently written the Association about his experience with one of the cleanest pools he has known.

He was in the habit of going regularly once a week to this swimming pool but shortly found himself a victim of a persistent cold in the head. He asked others about their experiences. He found that some had had trouble similar to his own but that very many had not. He then asked several nose and throat physicians their opinions. They agreed that at the beginning of winter tank swimming and all through the season they saw a fine crop of bad middle-ear and nasal conditions. The boys whom they treated all came from public swimming pools.

The writer suggests that he may be lop-sided on the matter and admits that there is a great deal to be said in favor of swimming pools when the best sanitation plans are followed.

Because so many cities have been considering placing swimming pools in their recreation buildings, Dr. Joseph E. Raycroft of the Department of Hygiene and Physical Education of Princeton after reading the letter supplemented what he had previously written for *THE PLAYGROUND* on this subject by adding the following statement:

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"The possibility of the danger which he suggests has been in the mind of every thoughtful man who has had anything to do with the administration of swimming pools.

"There is no question in my mind that a dirty, unsanitary pool may be, and undoubtedly is in many cases, a source of infection. This danger, in my opinion, can be greatly minimized, if not entirely avoided, by a proper administration of the towel laundry and supply; regulations regarding baths before entering the pool; and a policy of keeping the water free of sediment and its bacterial content low by such means as may be necessary in a given situation.

"I find that my ideas on the matter are gradually becoming crystallized into two pretty clearly defined conclusions:

(1) "That venereal infection, when it is contracted by one who uses the swimming pool, is transmitted by dirty towels or fixtures and not by the water; and

(2) "That the ear, nose, and throat infections, which are not uncommon, occur in the great majority of cases among those who are relatively unskilled in the water and unaccustomed to the practice of swimming. These colds are due, I think, not so much to the actual infection from the water as to

the mechanical irritation of water upon a mucous membrane that has not become inured to such treatment. The result of this mechanical irritation is to lessen the resisting power of these tissues to the infection of bacteria that are already present in the normal nose and throat.

"I must say that I have not available definite figures which will support the foregoing statement; but my conclusion, which is based on a fairly close observation extending over a number of years, and which is concurred in by Mr. Frank Sullivan, our director of swimming, is based in part upon the fact that when a large number of men use the swimming pool, the water in which has a very low bacterial count, the number of ear, nose and throat infections among the expert swimmers is extremely small as contrasted with a considerably larger proportion of similar infections among those who are relatively inexpert in the water and have not learned to breathe properly. This conclusion seems to be rather strikingly confirmed by the observation that boys who are learning to swim and spend not more than fifteen minutes in the swimming pool at a given time, suffer from colds to a much greater extent than the members of the water

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polo team, for instance, who are subjected to an amazing amount of tackling and ducking in their games, but who know how to take care of themselves in the water and whose mucous membranes have be-

come highly resistant to the irritating effects of water in the upper air passages.

"I shall be interested to know whether the above conclusions are confirmed or combated by other observers."

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Florence D. Alden, Supervisor of Girls' Section of the Public Athletic League, Baltimore, Maryland

A group of girls, perhaps, expresses a desire for some fun—a place to play; or some keen-sighted man is distressed about conditions in a certain neighborhood and wants something to counteract the bad influences. So you go to the neighborhood, and with the girls or the man, you make a tour of inspection.

Is there a school there that has a gymnasium or an assembly hall or an unobstructed basement, or is there an erstwhile church whose gods have moved to more fashionable quarters, or is there a hall or storeroom over a market? Whatever there is you set yourself to get it, and having gotten it, you advertise the opening of a Recreation Center—a notice in the newspaper, an announcement in church, a request that the school children tell their "sisters and their cousins and their aunts," a cartoon on the screen of the moving pictures—use any way to get it before the girls.

Then you go there with your brightest assistant, one with both sympathy and "punch" if possible, a pianist (for you must have music) and *wait*. It is a thrilling moment of suspense for who can foretell whether there will be six or sixty? But you will have six at least, and lo! your Recreation Center is planted.

But now comes the work, assisted by skill and tact and sympathy and charm and very nearly every other desirable trait human nature can put forth. For whether tomorrow night your six will be sixty or three, depends on you and your assistant and your pianist tonight. Do you hear at the end of the evening, "I can bring three girls tomorrow night," "I know a whole bunch of girls that would be crazy about this," or do you hear, "I don't believe I can

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come tomorrow, I have a date," or "Jones's dance hall has a competition dance tomorrow and I am going to enter?"

The average young instructor or leader tends to be too technical and academic. Give the girls some cute, bright folk dances, full of play and action, rollicking games that can be quickly grasped, follow-the-leader-marching, perhaps, or a dumbbell drill in which they can make a noise—an evening full of frolic and laughter which in their own words "tastes like more." No amount of formal advertising weighs as does the word of "a girl I know." Later, when you have caught the interest, more constructive work can be built up—dances demanding more and more skill and grace, drills increasing in coordination, games and apparatus that will strengthen the organic functioning and, therefore, the girls' efficiency and happiness.

The social side of the life of the center is one of the most essential. Hallowe'en is approaching. Probably if the girls have never been in a recreation center, and dancing, drills, games, singing, have been the life so far, they will not think of a party. If you want to have it seem to come from them, get some girl whom you have grown to depend upon to suggest it when you are all sitting around the floor chatting, telling stories or singing. It will meet with instant applause.

Still wishing to have the girls take the initiative and responsibility, you suggest that they might elect a committee of arrangements of which you are a member by "virtue of your office." Perhaps the girls are original or perhaps they seem incapable of thinking up anything to do. If the latter, a little clever suggesting will start things, they will take up the ideas and the next time have some of their own.

Of course, money is necessary for a party. It is well, especially if the center has been advertised as free, to have all announcements as to taxes come through the committee—taxation *with* representation is accepted very cheerfully. At first the girls will suggest anywhere from fifteen to fifty cents. But after they have arranged quite elaborate parties at ten cents per capita, consisting of ice cream (always ice cream, preferably striped), wafers, candy, a little favor or perhaps a prize for the best stunt, you will feel that the death of the bugaboo of the high cost of living is at hand!

A reception committee is a good idea as it teaches the girls to be graceful hostesses. If there are several centers, having one entertain another helps to give a feeling that they are a part of a larger

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movement than their own little group. If they do not know each other, drawing for a partner for whose good time the girl is sponsor does away with awkwardness, and gives each girl in the entertaining center a sense of responsibility for the success of the evening.

Christmas time is full of possibilities for parties. One of our centers had a "white elephant party." Each girl was requested to bring a gift for which she had not been able to find a use—did not want, to be frank. Towards the last of the evening they all sat on the floor in a circle. We had made known our desire for a Christmas Tree for the center of our circle, but an artificial one a foot and a half high was the only one forthcoming. It looked a little lonesome in the middle of the gymnasium floor, but doubtless like the rag doll it developed our imaginations.

At the witching moment and to a burst of music, a conventionally portly and jolly Santa Claus (one of the girls) bustled in. From his pack he began at one point in the circle to give out the gifts which the girls passed from hand to hand around the circle. When the music stopped, each girl kept what she had, opened it and if she liked it, stepped out of the circle; if not, she did it up, the circle closed in, music and passing began and the performance was continued until everyone was satisfied. Some were, alas! so hard to suit that it bid fair to be an all night affair. Whether or not it was a method that should be adopted generally in Christmas giving was widely discussed.

Plays are always a popular form of entertainment for the actors as well as the audience. Generally the small amount of time the girls can give to rehearsing is a hindrance. They are apt to feel that they can give Ibsen or Shakespeare in three rehearsals! In our first attempt the girls finally consented to "The Wetherells' Wedding" which, as it is carried on entirely over the telephone, thus doing away with all graceful exits, entrances, stage business, was about up to their histrionic talents and the three rehearsals. We returned to the methods of the early Shakespearean drama and had no scenery except screens from the dressing rooms made into semblances of booths, and signs informing the credulous audience that this was the "Grand Central Station, New York City," or this the "Office of John Reynolds, Chicago." One of the girls who worked in the telephone office obtained desk telephones which made our one touch of realism. As the improvised curtain was drawn back, we watched with breathless interest the effect on our audience. There was a long moment's pause, and then one girl

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cried joyfully, "Why, they are telephone booths." Our efforts were rewarded!

"Men Parties" are always greeted with enthusiasm. Girls who come to our cities to work as strangers suffer the disadvantage of having no natural way of meeting men, except the very easy one of "picking them up." Or when they have met them they have no place to entertain them at home and nowhere to go but the street, the dance hall or the movies. Parties including men, if they can be regulated as to the type of man and made sufficiently interesting to compete with the street, the dance hall or the movies, help to solve this difficulty.

The girls take great pleasure in showing their friends and relatives what they have learned and how much they have improved in strength and grace by having demonstrations of the work. Friends are very much interested, and it not only gives the girls an opportunity to entertain, but serves as a means of getting the center before the neighborhood. It is better not to try to have these formal, but to exhibit the usual work and the happy, healthy, everyday life of the center. Here the girls have a chance to show their good spirit. They cheer the officers of the organization with no greater enthusiasm than they do the policeman, faithful and fat, who keeps the boys from looking in the window by looking in himself.

Sometimes the neighborhood becomes so interested that every night seems like a demonstration night. Mother and friends come with their babies so that occasionally "time out" has to be called while the girls assist a mother to soothe her baby awakened by a particularly wild flight of the basket ball. This enthusiasm is always gratifying as it serves to interest the girls and the older generation in the same things and makes the center a real factor in the neighborhood.

Often the older generation joins the class. In one, a mother, after finding that there was no age limit *up*, joined together with her married daughter and her unmarried daughter. The mother was quite the gayest of the three.

At the center on certain nights should be a woman doctor who has the ability to make herself a real friend of the girls—to whom they feel they can come with questions and doubts. The examination of each girl not only shows what kind of work she needs for her development, but often discovers defects that can be remedied before they have become permanent.

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A good way to keep up interest and to watch definite progress made is to have some sort of test whereby the girls compete not against each other, but against a standard. We have three pins that may be won three successive years—bronze, silver and gold.

Have you ever thought that to be an ideal "good sport" one must have almost all the characteristics that make for good citizenship? A good sport must learn to play amicably with girls of different types. She must subordinate her own interest and love of gallery play to the interest of the team as a whole. She must take criticism from coach, captain and even from her fellow players. She sees that the subordinate parts are no longer subordinate if played for all they are worth. She learns to be a magnanimous winner and, alas! far harder, a graceful loser. She develops loyalty. Stagnation is impossible if we are fired by a big loyalty for something—we move and move fast.

I have been told by many directors of boys, that girls are not naturally as good sports as boys and never will become so. The fact that they do not seem to be is due, I believe, to the difference in what is expected of them and the restrictions that are put upon them rather than anything inherent in the girl. The boy, almost from babyhood through manhood, plays in gangs and the law of the gang makes him play fair and abide by the rules of the games. If he doesn't, he is knocked down or receives some other equally swift and tangible evidence that public opinion is against him. A girl at ten or eleven must "be a little lady" and not romp and play rough games. She picks "a n'intimate" as Emmy Lou says, to whom she imparts her heart's secrets.

A great many of our girls come to the centers at twenty or more and have never played a team game or done anything in a team spirit. They are fiercely individualistic, grasp at everything with no thought for the rights of others, have no respect for "turns" or standing in line, not only have no conception of "being a good sport," but when they learn what it is, don't want to be one, for "what's in it."

I wish the skeptics could see these same girls beating out with their heels a three times three for the winning team with the tears "that just would come" running down their faces.

Who can say that those very characteristics, not superimposed by a director, but drawn out by working with others, will not be directly applied to make them "good fits" in whatever lives they may lead!

SECOND YEAR OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYHOUSE

One of the most satisfying phases of the work is the desire that many of the girls show to pass on what of actual training or of good spirit they have learned. They become most sympathetic and efficient helpers to the leaders in the larger centers or act as play leaders in clubs and settlements—almost always without pay and giving one or more of their evenings—their only fun time.

Another most interesting phase is the development of our "trained" leaders. They come to us graduates of the best physical training schools, but young and with the restricted horizon of their set at home or in school. Often their conception of their work is merely to turn out perfect drills and finished athletes. Will these girls come to love their girls as girls as well as gymnasts? Will they learn to take heterogeneous classes, made up of all sorts of girls of many races, and develop them into a strong whole, loyal not only to their set, but to the center and loyal to loyalty itself? Can they hold up an ideal of a good sport attractive enough to make the girls want it, inclusive enough to make it worth while and enduring enough to last after the immediate influence of the leader is gone? Will they have the sympathetic imagination to get behind the seemingly unreasonable twists that the rigors of the girls' lives have made inevitable, and really understand?

The more I am connected with recreation work the more I feel that its possibilities are almost limitless. It is always through our enthusiasms that we are moved to accomplish things; nations count on it in time of war, political campaigners utilize it with their torch light processions and stump speeches. Youth has an inexhaustible and never failing enthusiasm for a "good time." We are fortunate to be living in an age in which scientists have justified this enthusiasm. So let us use this natural instinct for play, and encourage it, develop it along sane, happy, healthy lines, bereft of the overdesire for "thrills" but full of good excitement, action, joy and life, and through it and from it, if you will, lead to higher and greater things.

SECOND YEAR OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYHOUSE

The Neighborhood Playhouse, that unique institution which has made Grand Street, far, far on the East Side of New York City, familiar to lovers of native art and to those who follow significant social experiments, is approaching the close of its second

SECOND YEAR OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYHOUSE

successful season. A glance over the programs presented in the beautiful little playhouse since its opening with *Jephthah's Daughter*, presented by the festival groups of Henry Street House under their new name of Neighborhood Players, on February 12, 1915, reveals an astonishing array of artistic offerings. From Monday to Friday the Playhouse is used for the most part for moving pictures of a high grade. Saturday and Sunday special programs are presented, consisting of offerings by the Neighborhood Players, such as *Wild Birds*, *The Waldies*, a number of unique one-act plays, or productions of the entire festival group, such as the Thanksgiving festival, repeated a number of times by request, or the pantomime ballet *Petrouchka*. Among these unique one-act plays have been those of Lord Dunsany's, *The Glittering Gate*, *The Golden Doom* and *A Night at the Inn*, the third presented to the Players in manuscript by the author in recognition of the really exquisite production of the other two—their first use, it is believed, in America. Sometimes the week-end program has been musical Clara Clemens Gabilowitch gave an evening of Russian songs; The Olive Mead Quartette gave a program; Henry L. Gideon and Constance R. Gideon sang *Songs of the Ghetto*. At Christmas time the Junior Players entertained the audience with fairy playlets. Another phase of productions represents a distinct contribution to artistic life in America in providing opportunity and sympathetic audience for such groups as Whitford Kane and Associate Players, representing the Irish theatre in America. Then there have been programs by such distinguished artists as Ethel Barrymore and Ellen Terry and proudly do the Playhouse folk show the dainty dressing room which "Ellen Terry has used."

But the auditorium—even with such a roster of presentations—represents only a part of the Playhouse activities. On the roof is a playground, sunny and pure above the varied smells of Grand Street, where many happy days are spent by the children of the crowded neighborhood. A spacious room, which may be divided into two by the use of rolling partitions, is regularly used for the dancing classes and dramatic groups, working not only for production, but for the joy of the thing. Classes in designing, poster-drawing, stage sets and properties under skilled direction provide costumes, settings and properties for performances as a result of delightful hours spent in learning the craft.

And all of this joy for the neighborhood as well as for lovers of art throughout the city is the gift of two women who, through

OMAHA SOLVING THE HOUSING PROBLEM

years of work with the dramatic groups of Henry Street House, came to feel that the "development of the players, the interest of the audience and the response of the neighborhood" demanded the erection of this playhouse. The Misses Alice and Irene Lewisohn were the donors. Modern stagecraft and theatre construction were enlisted both in this country and abroad to make the little playhouse serve its purpose in the best possible manner. As a result, compactness and comfort are secured, along with the possibility of artistic effects with simple machinery. From the rows of costumes of "knight and herald, lord and dame"—provided by Miss Lewisohn—through the dressing rooms to the little box of a kitchen where the overworn players may refresh themselves, beauty and order are manifest.

OMAHA SOLVING THE HOUSING PROBLEM FOR ITS FEATHERED CITIZENS

C. H. English

Superintendent of Public Recreation, Omaha, Nebraska

In the Council Chambers of the City Hall of Omaha was held on March 23-24-25 the most unique and beautiful bird house exhibit ever staged in a western city.

The bird houses were built by the boys and girls of the Omaha grade schools in the manual training department under the general supervision of Miss Helen Thompson. The material for these houses was supplied by City Commissioner J. B. Hummel, Superintendent of Parks and Public Property.

Over four hundred bird houses were on exhibit—a wonderful display of art, genius and excellent workmanship. All of these houses are to be set up in Omaha's parks where the birds will be protected from harm by the squirrels and be encouraged to come to these bird sanctuaries.

The spirit of this western metropolis was diverted from its great commercial growth, for the time, to the welfare of its feathered guests who are just arriving from the south. There are to be found in Omaha alone one hundred and fifty varieties and in the State of Nebraska, which has the reputation of having the greatest variety of birds of any state in the Union, are to be found in all seasons over four hundred varieties.

The greatest interest in birdlore that Omaha has ever shown,

OMAHA SOLVING THE HOUSING PROBLEM

culminated in this artistic and beautiful exhibit. The Council Chamber made a wonderful setting for such an exhibit. Five twenty-foot trees were brought in to serve as an object lesson on the correct method of hanging the houses.

Real live birds were also placed in these trees, lending an atmosphere of reality by their cheery song notes. Various varieties of stuffed birds were placed in front of a number of houses to show how the bird enters his home. Hidden in one corner was a Victrola where the Kellogg and Gorst records were constantly filling the room with bird calls, mystifying to adults as well as to children, who could not at first detect where the birds could be hidden.

The sister of Charles C. Gorst, the Harvard bird man, recognized immediately her brother's Edison record of the bird songs. Mr. Gorst was formerly an Omaha boy and was born in Neligh, Nebraska, where, his sister states, he first learned the notes of the meadow lark and other birds while milking the cows on their farm at Neligh.

In this exhibit of many kinds, shapes, colors and styles of birdhouse, thirty-eight of the local schools contributed, each school sending from one to thirty houses while the Fort School for Boys sent forty in a separate exhibit.

No prizes were offered. This exhibit proved without a doubt that prizes were not needed. The real motive for building was loyalty to the school exhibit, interest in bird life, and personal satisfaction in actually constructing a thing of beauty—as every one really was.

Every boy or girl visitor found keen delight in seeing either his own creation on display or that of his school. The parents were no less filled with pride as the discovery was made of a bird house whose very dimensions, color and purpose had been a subject of discussion at the dinner table for the last four weeks.

Many thousands attended this exhibit and the count showed equal interest on the part of adults. It was a source of education to every one and one never grew tired of discovering a new shaped house after seeing the exhibit perhaps a dozen times. Some came to take notes on how to build them. Other professional men, school board members, city commissioners and business men wanted to buy one or two each. The entire four hundred houses could have been sold on the first day. One representative of a local cemetery company secured the promise of fifty houses to be

OMAHA SOLVING THE HOUSING PROBLEM

built by the Fort School boys which are to be placed in the cemetery where the first bird sanctuary of its kind in the west has been established.

This exhibit brought out very clearly the inventive instinct in boys and girls, for no two bird houses were alike. One had hollowed out a cocoanut for a wren house. Another had a wooden syrup pail inverted with the roof on the bottom of the pail and the bail acting as a swinging perch.

One little girl sewed two fig baskets together and put a roof on them. A little nine-year-old boy put rockers on his house so that the wind would rock the little baby birds to sleep. There were unlimited styles and shapes but the rustic type predominated. Log cabins, teepees, ordinary logs hollowed out and one birch-bark cabin. Natural wood martin houses, tenement-like, for at least twelve families, was another style. One little colored boy had started a bird house at his school when he had to undergo an operation on his leg. He was unable to go to school, being confined to his bed. But he did want to exhibit his bird house with the rest of his schoolmates. So with the aid of a set of tools, borrowed from school, and the assistance of his father who was a plasterer by trade, this little fellow made his house on his bed and finished in time to have it exhibited with the rest. His father came to the exhibit to see it and to report to his son. The boys of that school never tired of telling the story of this little stucco house which had a prominent place on a front table.

The Fremont Board of Education sent two high school boys to Omaha to secure information on bird house construction and paid the expenses of the visitors. Thus the interest which is permeating all Omaha is reaching other cities in the state.

This exhibit just closed has been of great value to the city in several ways. It has connected the school life with the lessons to be taught in the study of birds, their habits and needs. There will be less shooting of birds and fewer eggs destroyed in Omaha this year. The interest of the children has aroused the adults into activity, realizing that the birds have a commercial value to a city and state as well as a moral value. It has shown in a practical way the value of the manual training departments in the public school. It will give greater impetus to the study of bird life, and its conservation by all ages, particularly among the children who visit the playgrounds where this study will be a part of the playground activity.

HOW ONE PLAYGROUND WAS DEVELOPED

Jeanette M. Hornsby, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania

Whenever the subject of playgrounds was discussed in our town, everybody would say, "Yes, it would be very fine; but where can we have it? We have no ground." And it really seemed as though we hadn't, for every lot in our town is filled up, until even a small back yard is a luxury. We have several fine school-yards that might have been turned into delightful neighborhood playgrounds, but when we talked about it, somehow not enough people were interested. Then last winter we had a very successful Junior Chautauqua Club, and in the spring, May 8, gave a little entertainment for the parents and friends. We invited Miss Anna Oppenlander to come and talk on the need of public playgrounds. Her talk and the delightful play-spirit of the children, together with some photographs of playgrounds exhibited some time before this, so impressed one or two public-spirited men, that in less than two weeks it was announced that our town was to have a public playground. I wish you could have seen the ground where it was to be. Four years previous to this our Sunday School Athletic Association had leased some ground at the extreme east end of town. They had transformed a portion of it from a swamp and a dumping place for ashes and garbage into a fine baseball park. They had erected a grand stand and bleachers, and had planted North Carolina poplars all around the fence, and made four tennis courts. But no one ever went near unless interested in baseball or tennis. So this same board of managers decided to enclose and improve the remainder of their leased ground, and use it as a public park and playground. It certainly looked unpromising with its heaps of ashes and garbage. But so did the baseball diamond four years before.

A contract was let to clear, fill in, and terrace the ground. We decided to have it ready to dedicate on Memorial Day. So it became very evident that some volunteer labor would have to be done. When the call was made, a number of men responded very generously, and, on several days when the mines were idle, they worked with all the energy they had. On the opening day, people could scarcely believe their eyes. The eastern fence had been moved back a depth of 250 feet, and the fence enclosed now about ten acres. Instead of a garbage dump, there was a nicely leveled playground,

HOW ONE PLAYGROUND WAS DEVELOPED

with a sodded terrace and concrete steps. We had a concrete wading pool, thirty feet in diameter, four swings, two slides and two seesaws, and four sand boxes. Behind the playground and to one side of it, lay the woods with some splendid old trees. This we planned to use for picnic purposes.

The public was so delighted with what they saw, and what it promised, that its success was practically assured from the opening day. Electric lights were placed and the park was open to the public from early morning until nine o'clock in the evening. It was open also on Sundays, but no apparatus was in use that day. We employed a playground teacher for day work from June 15 to Aug. 15. The association had always employed a caretaker. Every man on the board of directors was appointed as guard, without pay, so that there was never any rowdiness, even on crowded days nor in the evenings. We worked all summer improving and adding to; many men spending every idle day they had, not sitting in the shade of the trees, but with pick and shovel. At the end of the summer, we had added to our first apparatus three swings, a seesaw, and a horizontal bar in one frame; a small wooden slide; four basket swings for the babies; a giant stride; three big swings for the young people who came evenings; and a big slide for them, too. This has two stairways with two slides on each side. Then there is a feature for which I have no name; but it is on the principle of a moving stairway, and it created a lot of fun among the older ones. This apparatus was all built by our own men, thus making our money reach much further than if we had bought everything ready to set up. Only the first piece, known as the playground station, was purchased.

By August first, the swimming pool was ready for use. A natural hollow in the ground was utilized for this, and it is 108 x 58, with a depth of two and one-half feet at the shallow end, and from eight to ten feet at the spillway. This had its bathhouses and lockers with a paid caretaker.

In the grove, the underbrush had been cleared away, tables set up, and two fireplaces built of brick and sheetiron. Every day saw numbers of people there with their lunch, and on Thursdays, the business men's half holiday, people would share the tables, some eating their lunch earlier, to make room for others later. It created a feeling of fellowship and sociability among the town's people. Every evening there were throngs of people in the park; enjoying the apparatus, or sitting around chatting with their friends.

HOW ONE PLAYGROUND WAS DEVELOPED

It brought together people who had seen very little of each other, perhaps in years.

So besides furnishing a healthful and profitable playground for our children, it became no less a playground for the fathers and mothers, who could get away from the hot, dusty streets, and enjoy the cool mountain breezes. I must not forget to say that much of the attractiveness of our park is due to the fact that it lies right between two mountains at the extreme end of our valley.

Now, of course, you want to know where the money came from to do all this. In the first place, the labor which was given by these big-hearted, generous men saved a great deal in cash. As I have said, they helped to clear and fill in the ground, construct and set up the apparatus, the plans for which were made by our president. He, too, was untiring in his work, giving every hour he could possibly spare from his duties. We were exceedingly fortunate in having such a man at the head of it. The labor at the swimming pool was nearly all voluntary; all the excavating (they used mules and carts loaned from the mines); and the laying of the brick walls with an outer layer of smooth concrete. The bottom of the pool was done by contract. Our actual expenses were about \$6,300. Nearly all of this has been paid.

After our opening day we asked for contributions. These came from different fraternities and lodges, from individuals, and each Sunday school made a contribution. We have two refreshment stands in the park, which are a source of income, although a clerk must be paid. Here *pure* ice cream and *good* candies are offered for sale. Another source of income is the swimming pool. A fee of fifteen cents is charged for the use of it, and forty cents if a suit is rented. But the men who worked on it were given season tickets, and some who gave so much time to it, were even given life privileges. A record was kept of each man's time. Then, too, the children were allowed free use of the pool and lockers during the morning under supervision.

But the bulk of our money came from four "big" days we had. On these days we charged an admission of ten cents for adults and five cents for all children not participating in the programs. It was their privilege to take part if they wanted to. Then we charged ten cents for the grandstand.

The first of these days was our opening day, May 31. We had a procession with a May Queen and a Maypole Dance, and other folk dances and games. Then we had our superintendent of schools

HOW ONE PLAYGROUND WAS DEVELOPED

make a speech, and the boys' brigade fire three salutes over the playground, and the apparatus was unlocked and the children lined up to wait their turn to swing or slide.

■ The play leader's work really began June 15. We had a regular program for games, free play, storytelling, and folk-dancing. A local dealer gave us a regular school victrola and the records.

On July 5, we had a baby show and children's fancy dress parade. We found it difficult to handle the crowds who came, and the affair was such a success, that we voted to make it an annual affair. We awarded ribbons (blue, red, and white) to the winners.

The play leader's work ended on Aug. 19, and we gave a sort of field day with an exhibition of games and folk-dances learned during the summer. People were amazed and delighted that one play leader should have accomplished so much in so short a time with so many children. The children played merrily on without a leader until the end of October. Of course, there was always some one there to see that there was no ruffianism.

Several evenings during the summer the different bands gave concerts. One evening during August, a minstrel show was given by a troupe from a little town nearby. We charged admission to this, and the people came in throngs.

We were to have our last big day on Labor Day, but it rained. So we planned to have it the next evening. The men put up a stage, lighted it with electric lights, and strung Japanese lanterns around. This time we served a supper from four o'clock until seven. The provisions were donated. Then for the entertainment each Sunday school had prepared a drill. There was everything from a doll drill by the tiniest girls, to very elaborate hoop and scarf drills by older pupils.

So you see, everybody was able to give something in a small way for the pleasures which they enjoyed day after day. We have a population of about seventeen thousand, and we are not wealthy people. So we could not expect large gifts of money. While the control of our park and playgrounds is in the hands of a Sunday school association, its privileges are for all, irrespective of creed or denomination. We are looking forward to a very successful summer.

RESULTS IN A COUNTRY PLAYGROUND

Margaret T. Alexander, New Castle, Pa.

A playground in Ellwood City, Pa., financed by the Shelby Tube Company, has already justified itself by its harvest of results.

Industrial work, as reed and raffia baskets, fancy work, bags, fishing nets, doll houses, hammocks and rugs, drawing and paper cutting is taught.

An hour of storytelling each day has been very profitable and entertaining.

Many of the most common games were unknown to the children. These, with new ones, have been taught.

Considering the day time attendance alone, the playground has been a decided success, but in addition it has become a social center in the evening. Free band concerts are given and the swimming pool is open until 9 o'clock. Here the families spend their evenings in a happy, beneficial way.

Directly due to the playground many good results have been noticed in the children. A number of children, who in the beginning of the season came with dirty faces and clothes and uncombed hair, are now as clean and neat as one could wish. This is especially noticeable in three little Magyar sisters. Their clothing consisted of little dresses. They appeared to be altogether unacquainted with either a comb or water. They were unable to understand or speak English. All efforts of the play leader to make them understand that she wished them to come otherwise were in vain until a foreign woman who could speak the Magyar language came to her aid. Upon being told the play leader's wish, they left the grounds. Two days passed without their return. When, upon the third day, they came back a great change had been made. You could hardly recognize them as the same children, nor was it ever necessary to speak to them again.

A boy coming from a home where he was accustomed to hear and repeat oaths and swearing carried them to the playground. He soon discovered that this was forbidden and started a fight to conquer the habit.

The parents have been very quick to see and appreciate the effect of the playground on the children. A mother, who has but one child, remarked, "I can see a wonderful change in my boy. Being the only child, he had become very selfish and unaccustomed to sharing playthings with other children. It has been a hard

RESULTS IN A COUNTRY PLAYGROUND

lesson but worth the effort." Another mother said, "My child had no real idea of play until the playground came." Still another said, "I can't begin to say what it means to have a place where I can send my children and know they will be cared for while I am busy." It is a common occurrence to overhear such expressions as, "It is the best thing we have ever had in our city," "I don't see how we ever did without it." "It is a wonderful opportunity and training for the child" and "Every child should have such a place to play."

The great effect for good of the playground in this community has been noticeable. Not only the parents, who have watched their children folk dance, make baskets or act as partners in a game, have been brought closer together but the parents by being in contact with each other in the swimming pool or otherwise on the grounds have come to know each other as never before.

Then this undertaking, being outside of the churches or other organization and yet interesting them all very vitally compels the getting together of all kinds of people and gives a power of unity that reaches to all civic interests

Aside from the opportunity of giving the play instincts of the child a chance to be expressed and developed in a proper way, from the pleasure and recreation afforded, from the educational value of the industrial work, from the lessons and pleasure derived from the stories told, from the benefit to the health of the many who have played games, danced and swum, the lessons, which the children have learned, through their games, in honesty, fairness, truthfulness, co-operation, submersion of the individual for the common good, loyalty, unselfishness and cleanliness have been worth all the cost of the playground.

"If we work upon marble it will perish, if we work upon brass time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust, but if we work upon immortal souls, if we imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love of our fellowmen, we engrave on those tablets something which will brighten to all eternity."

"The city that sets out to make men must seek the honor, health and happiness of all her people."

EXTENDING FIELD HOUSE SERVICE IN RACINE

A. A. Fiske, Superintendent of Parks, Racine, Wis.

We have just erected a field house at Lake View Playground, 40 x 65, one story with a basement under the entire structure. The entire first floor is used as a gymnasium. The locker room, shower bath room, comfort stations, and heating plant are in the basement. This basement has a nine-foot ceiling and the foundation is four feet above the ground, so that it is very light.

We have developed a locker system that we think is quite unique and is under better control and more economically maintained than the usual locker system where each boy and girl taking work at the field house is given a separate locker. We have but forty steel lockers and about three hundred wire baskets of about 1 inch mesh, 8 inches wide, 7 inches deep, and 14 inches long. These baskets are kept in a separate room which has pigeon holes built all along the walls of the right size to receive the baskets. Each basket has a number. The gymnasium suits and equipment are kept in these baskets, and those coming to the gymnasium for work call at a window in this room, present their claim checks and their baskets are given to them. Each one takes his basket, goes to the locker room and occupies the locker which is lent for this one session. After putting on his suit, his street clothes are put in the locker together with the basket which fits in the locker. After completing the gymnasium work he goes to the shower bath room which is connected with the locker room, takes a shower bath, dresses, puts his gymnasium suit in the basket, and returns the same to the custodian in charge of the room in which these baskets are kept. The lockers are left open for the next class. In this way the custodian is given an opportunity to inspect the gymnasium suits as they are returned, and if it becomes necessary to suggest that the suit be laundered, this request is made. As each individual receives his basket and suit, he is given a towel. When each basket is returned, a towel must accompany the same. In this way we have an absolute check on the towels which are lent. There is another advantage and perhaps the major advantage of this system. That is that we can accommodate eight or ten times the number of people with the same floor space possible with the old locker system where each individual has a permanent locker.

A great many park and playground commissions located in cities of the second or third class seem to have an idea that they

QUESTIONS ASKED IN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

must imitate in some degree the more expensive field houses in larger cities. That seems to be their idea and the thing that they are desirous of accomplishing. There are two evils which present themselves with this sort of endeavor. In the first place, these buildings are too expensive for the smaller cities to undertake, and in the second place, too expensive to maintain, making one unit such an expensive one that other sections of the city cannot be served. I think the best kind of plan is on a smaller scale which can be duplicated in the various sections of the city, and therefore gives a better distribution of gymnasium facilities.

Our building cost approximately \$5,000.00. We have a gymnasium 40 x 65, twelve shower baths, and an adequate locker system to take care of three hundred boys and girls, and if necessary, this could be increased to four or five hundred, at a nominal cost by using the wire basket system. We are running classes two sessions each evening from 7:30 to 8:30 and from 8:30 to 10:30. The younger boys and girls take their work during the first session, the older boys and girls in the second session. At the present time we have open one evening for girls. Saturday night is what we call our open night. On this night the gymnasium is open for dancing parties, entertainments and things of that sort. Saturday morning is devoted to the boys of school age, and the afternoon to the girls of school age. We keep a record of the attendance of each boy and girl so that at the end of the season we know what percentage of the total number of sessions each individual has attended. We also know the number of boys and girls that have taken work at the field house.

QUESTIONS ASKED IN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

Civil service examinations are held in many cities for the purpose of filling positions in recreation. Questions asked in several recent examinations are here given.

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Examination for the position of Superintendent of Recreation—Board of Playground Commissioners, City of Newark, N. J., held Thursday, February 24th, 1916

QUESTIONS ASKED IN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

I—Preliminary Questions

1. Have you ever been examined by this, or any other, civil service commission?
2. If so, state when, give the title of the position and the salary in each case.
3. Were you successful in the examination or examinations? If so, state which examination or examinations and the approximate percentage received.
4. Do you use intoxicating beverages? If so, to what extent?
5. Are you married or single?
6. Have you any defect of limb, hand, or foot?
7. Have you any defect of sight or hearing?
8. Have you any disease or deformity?
9. What is the present state of your health?
10. What is your exact age?
11. What is your exact weight?
12. What is your exact height?

II—Education

13. Outline in full detail the nature and extent of your educational training, both general and special, including the schools you have attended, when, and how long, the nature and extent of your special training. If a college graduate, indicate the course or courses pursued and give your degree or degrees.

III—Professional Experience

14. Outline in full detail the exact nature and extent of your experience in playground work, stating (a) the exact title of the positions held, (b) the length of time employed in each position, (c) the character of the work done, (d) the extent of the system or systems in which you have worked, including the number of playgrounds and recreation centers, the size of the working force, (e) the responsibilities with which you were charged and the nature and extent of your administrative work.

IV—General Experience

15. Give a complete statement of your general business experience, other than the above, including any executive and administrative work in which you have been engaged. State also any experience you may have had in keeping of records, accounts.

QUESTIONS ASKED IN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

16. Give a list of the positions you have held during the past ten years, if not mentioned above, including the exact nature and title of the position, the salary received, and the length of time employed in each case.

V—References

17. Give the names and addresses of ten responsible persons for reference.

THESIS

NOTE: The knowledge, intelligence and general grasp of the subject will be the chief considerations in rating this paper, but the form, construction, syntax, will also be taken into account.

Write a Thesis of from 1500 to 3000 words, on one of the following subjects: (If desired the candidate may write on each subject given. In this case each article should be limited to 1000 words.)

I. An adequate recreation system for the city of Newark, or any city of from 350,000 to 400,000 population

II. Playgrounds and their relation to the social and moral conditions of the community

Sign with your examination number. Do not use your name.

DUTIES—WRITTEN

1. Assuming that you should be appointed superintendent of recreation of the City of Newark, outline, in some detail, the problems you would take up and the important features of your work for the first two or three months.

2. The Board of Playground Commissioners of the City of Newark has under its control from eight to ten playgrounds with a yearly attendance of about one million, and four public baths with a yearly attendance of about seven hundred thousand. The boys attending the playgrounds outnumber the girls two to one and the males attending the baths outnumber the females three to one. (a) With an appropriation of \$45,000. for playgrounds and \$32,000. for baths, prepare a tentative budget showing the approximate amount which should be devoted to the several items of expense. (b) Outline the organization you would need for taking care of this system, indicating the approximate number of employees, the

QUESTIONS ASKED IN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

several grades of the same and the probable salaries. (Note: Assume all other reasonable data necessary.)

3. (a) Discuss, in some detail, the type and qualifications of the playground workers you would demand, and explain how you, not considering the civil service regulations, would determine these qualifications. (b) Outline a method of keeping efficiency records, or checks, on the several employees in the department, which would show the relative efficiency and which might be used to serve as a basis of promotion or preferment for advanced positions.

4. Give your views on the necessity or advisability of a training course for play workers, especially the new ones coming in to the department. Outline in some detail, a course of training for such employees and explain the general plan you would recommend for conducting such a course.

5. Discuss, in some detail, the importance of complete and accurate office records of everything connected with the administration of the department of recreation, and outline, in some detail, the system which you would recommend in order that complete and accurate data may be had at any time of any or all of the activities or work of the department.

6. Outline in some detail, a lecture to your playground force on Playground Activities in America, showing the extent of the work at present and indicating any special or important recent developments of the work in any particular places. (Note: This should be in sufficient detail to show that the candidate himself has a knowledge of the extent of present playground activities.)

7. (a) Discuss the question of the importance of suitable and adequate playground apparatus and equipment. (b) In case of limited funds or other preventive causes explain how it is possible to do efficient playground work without complete equipment. (c) Indicate the apparatus and equipment which you would consider necessary and that which you would consider desirable in a large playground covering a city block, a recreation center, a bath house.

8. With what local, private, semi-public or other public agencies or organizations might the department of recreation of the city cooperate in furthering the recreation and welfare work of the city. Indicate in some detail what cooperation could be obtained and how you, as recreation superintendent, would undertake to accomplish the same.

QUESTIONS ASKED IN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Examination for Supervisor of Men's and Boys' Activities (Male)

1. Education, training, experience and personal fitness 20
2. Written examination on theory and method of playground supervision 30
3. Practical demonstration of ability to handle a group 40
4. Physical test 10
- Total 100
- Average Percentage

Instructions to applicants: Write only on one side of the paper, and be sure to number answers correctly. Fasten various sheets together with clips which will be found on the desk. Opportunity will be found during the conduct of the examination for conference with applicant on which to base judgment on subject 1, in addition to written statement covering same. Applicants have from 1:00 p. m. to 4:00 p. m. in which to answer questions under sub-head No. 2, but time of completion will be marked on each paper, and consideration will be given to celerity with which the task is completed. Neatness of work, spelling, penmanship and grammar will also be weighed and considered. Applicants will report at the gymnasium of the Cass Technical High School, Grand River and High Street West, Saturday, February 5th, at 9:00 a. m. for examination in 3 and 4. Applicants, before leaving the room, must return this blank containing questions and instructions.

First Subject:

1. Outline the educational training and practical experience you have had which, in your opinion, fits you for this position. Emphasize any parts thereof which show successful administrative and normal teaching ability sufficient to justify your taking the supervisory position.

Second Subject:

1. What are the characteristics of the different stages of boy life from 7 to 19 years, inclusive, and what activities practicable on city playgrounds and in public school buildings of the conventional type are adapted to each stage and why?
2. Outline types of competitive athletics suitable for boys

QUESTIONS ASKED IN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

under playground conditions, pointing out the strong and weak points in each and explaining how you would organize them in a city of 500,000.

3. Given the use of grammar school buildings, unequipped with gymnasiums, outside of school hours, the use of unequipped rooms in six branch library centers, the use of fifty school playgrounds averaging 200 feet by 300 feet, the use of three large playfields and the full time of thirty male workers; show how you would organize the boys' and men's work from the first of November to the first of April, giving assignments of hours and duties for each worker.

4. Outline a course of study covering 250 hours which you would give to male high school graduates to fit them theoretically and practically for work under you in a system as outlined in question three, and state how you would go to work to discover necessary and fatal traits in your students.

5. How would you learn the employed boy recreation needs peculiar to each neighborhood in which you planned work, and what methods would you devise to make your assistants learn these peculiar neighborhood needs.

6. Given a space 200 feet by 300 feet:

(a) Draw a figure showing the above on a scale of 50 feet to 1 inch.

(b) Lay out the space for a neighborhood playground providing for a boys' basket ball court, a girls' basket ball court, a tennis court, a playground baseball diamond, all of regulation size and dimensions, and such other space assignment as you think desirable.

(c) List and place \$500. worth of playground apparatus on the above.

Third Subject:

1. Each applicant will take charge of a small adult group on a standard gymnasium floor for twenty minutes. They will represent a group of inexperienced boys' work directors. The applicant will undertake to teach some boys' activities, and will be graded on his choice of subject, his method, his ability to lead and his ability to teach.

Fourth Subject:

1. Each applicant will show his proficiency and form in dash, broad jump and chinning.

QUESTIONS ASKED IN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION—NEW YORK EXAMINATION FOR SECRETARY ON RECREATION

Instructions to Candidates

1. Candidates will submit three reports upon the subjects specified on the attached sheet.

2. In rating these reports principal consideration will be given to

A Originality and practicability of the plan presented

B Clearness and cogency of expression

C General knowledge of the subject

It is expected that reports submitted will present the candidate's own ideas and research, and that proper credit will be given by quotation marks whenever the thoughts of others are used.

3. The total number of words contained in the three reports should not exceed 12,000 (twelve thousand).

4. Reports must be typewritten on the paper furnished herewith. Use no other paper. Number the pages of the reports consecutively.

5. The following oath should be prepared on the first page of the thesis. Nothing except this oath must be written on this first page.

I, the undersigned, a candidate for the position of secretary on recreation, in the service of the City of New York, do solemnly swear, or affirm, that in the preparation of the accompanying reports the composition is entirely my own, and I have given full credit by quotation marks and references to authorities for any quoted matter.

Signature of Applicant

Street Address

City

State

Subscribed and sworn to before me, by above candidate, to me personally known, this day of 1916, at city of , county of state of .

Official seal

(The Official seal must not be omitted.)

Signature of Officer

QUESTIONS ASKED IN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

6. This oath must be taken before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths for general purposes, and the officer's signature must be authenticated by an official seal. If the oath be taken before a justice of peace, or other officer who has no official seal, his official title must be certified to by the clerk of court, secretary of state, or other proper officer under official seal. This officer must certify that the candidate is personally known to him.

7. The reports must be returned by registered mail in the enclosed return envelope, and postmarked by the post office of mailing within ten days (exclusive of the day of receipt) of the day on which the package containing these instructions was actually received by the candidate, as evidenced by the post mark on the registry return receipt, signed by the candidate.

8. A report which contains the name of the candidate, or any other identifying mark, on any page, other than the first page on which the candidate's oath is written, will not be accepted.

MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, NEW YORK

Examination for Secretary on Recreation, Committee on Social Welfare, Board of Estimate and Apportionment

1. Submit and discuss in detail a plan for the correlation of the activities of the several municipal agencies now engaged in administering the recreational facilities of New York City.

NOTE: This plan should comprehend the fullest use of all existing facilities for public recreation in its broadest sense. The functions of the various municipal agencies extant in New York City with the scope of the jurisdiction exercised by each may be gleaned from the reports furnished herewith.

2. Discuss, fully, possible and desirable cooperation between the municipal and non-municipal agencies in meeting the recreation needs of the people.

NOTE: This paper should treat principally of the problems of administration and finance involved in the cooperation indicated.

3. Outline forms for use in showing actual and estimated expenditures for recreation, classified in such manner as to aid appropriating bodies in formulating a plan for providing the needed facilities and financing the various activities.

The candidates successful in passing the written examination

CIVIL SERVICE

were given an oral examination. The questions asked the candidates were, however, different. One candidate was asked to assume that he was addressing an East Side audience and was asked to speak for five minutes on what the playground movement would mean to them. He was then asked to assume that he was addressing the Board of Estimate and Apportionment on the need of increasing the budget for recreation in New York City.

CIVIL SERVICE

George Ellsworth Johnsen

Assistant Professor, Division of Education, Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass.

As to civil service, so far as my experience goes, civil service has been a detriment rather than a help in the administration of play and recreation work. There are two main reasons why this has been so. In the first place, the civil service commission has, naturally enough, lacked the knowledge necessary to give an adequate examination to candidates for play and recreation work. This might be remedied, and in some cases has been remedied, by co-operation with play and recreation experts. In the second place, the civil service commission is sometimes controlled by a political machine, and when such is the case it is the very worst obstacle to the good administration of play and recreation.

Whether there is civil service or not, there can be no highly efficient work done in play and recreation, I believe, unless the person in general charge of the work has the ability necessary for the selection of the best available assistants and the power to control appointments. This ability to know and judge a good assistant is one of the most important of the qualifications of the superintendent of a play and recreation system, and any machinery or condition that does not lend itself to a free use of that ability is a grave menace to the best administration of play and recreation.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE DEBATING

By Rollo LuVerne Lyman. Published by Extension Division, University of Wisconsin. Serial No. 770; General Series No. 570. Price, fifteen cents

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